This Story May Save Your Child's Life

NINETY per cent. of the lives lost in fires are lost because of ignorance. Over and over again this statement has been made by fire chiefs, yet nothing is done about it. Dr. Myron T. Scudder, of the Scudder School in New York, decided that it was time American children were taught the few fundamental principles of safety in time of fire. He is teaching those principles to his children: teach them to yours. The time may come when they will save your child's life.

First of all, Dr. Scudder makes it a point to teach his youngsters self-confidence. No child ever receives a shock or a scare in his gymnasium. The lessons are given to the children very slowly. They begin with simple exercises, and it may be weeks before they get to the big ladders in the back yard where the more difficult lessons are taught.

The ladders are of three types—slanting, straight, and swinging. The first lesson that the child receives is in mounting the ladder. She is never forced to go beyond a height at which she feels perfectly safe and secure. In some instances the children can not go higher than two rounds in the first week; but gradually they gain courage, until they are able to go up or down a fire-escape in the dead of night, and if necessary make the ascent or descent with their hands behind them.

The first ladder that is used is slanting. This is the easiest to work with. Then comes the straight one, and last the chain ladder that hangs from a beam and swings loose from the floor. After a child has reached the point where she can run lightly up and down these ladders without fear, the exercise of climbing the slanting ladder blindfolded is begun. Why blindfolded? It is a precaution taken in case of a very dark night, or for such a time as may occur when smoke blinds and makes it impossible to see where one is stepping.

Photograph by Gertrude A. Bingham.

If your little girl is old enough to walk she is old enough to learn how to save her life in case of fire. Teach her that a crack in the floor will lead her to a window and safety.

How to Come Down a Rope

TO use a rope as a means of escape from a burning building sounds easy enough, but many accidents have occurred to those ignorant of the way to use it. The children are taught to come down a rope hand over hand, never to slide; for more than one person has found his or her hands injured for life from the friction caused by sliding down a rope.

Dr. Scudder points out to his children that it is very dangerous to place a rope on the sill of a window, sit on the window-sill and grasp the rope for descent. A rope ought to be placed at the top of the window, the loose end thrown over the top of the sash, and then, sitting on the sill, one may easily adjust it.

When there is nothing available to which the rope may be attached, a straight chair, a broom-handle, or anything equally strong, will serve the purpose. Tie the rope (or the sheets that have been joined together) in the middle of this article, making two half hitches; raise the window to a sufficient height to leave about a foot of the chair or broom-handle above the sash and the other below the sill; then, grasping the rope, one may work down to safety, for the chair is absolutely secure as long as the weight of the person is on the rope.

Knot-tying is a part of the children's education, and Dr. Scudder declares that every adult ought to know how to tie certain knots, for on this knowledge a life may hang.

There are three kinds of knots that prove useful. One is the bowline-on-a-bight. This will make a seat of a rope or of sheets in which an old person or an invalid may be lowered from a window. The Alpine knot, used by mountain climbers, will hold two pieces of rope or other material firmly together. The two half hitches will secure the rope to a piece of furniture. Every child in the school knows how to tie these knots before she has finished her course, and knows just how they are to be used.

To Get to a Window

THE gravest danger in case of fire is suffocation. A smoke-filled room is terrifying. Smoke ascends. Therefore, in a smoke-filled room the thing to do is to drop to your knees and crawl to a window or door. But how? That is the place where instruction serves a good turn. The boards of a floor are, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, laid so that the cracks run toward a window; it is a fireman's trick to drop to the floor and feel his way along these boards to air and an opening. Dr. Scudder's children are taught to do this. When they have had enough practice in this exercise, they are blindfolded, turned about several times or walked about a room, and are then left to feel their way to the windows.

Gradually the children are taught to walk around a narrow coping, or across a slender trestle, if need be. The work in the school gymnasium and on the ladders in the back yard affords wholesome exercise, and when the course is complete, coolness in the face of danger has become almost second nature to the children.

What do you think your youngsters would do if they were to wake up some night with their eyes and mouths full of smoke? Isn't it a good time to give them a few simple lessons *right now?*

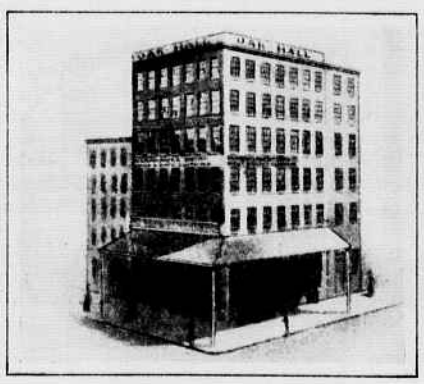
Where They Started

Photographs from Charles W. Person

In the famous experimental workshop of Charles Williams, on the top floor of the building at 109 Court Street, Boston, the first conclusive experiments with the telephone were carried out June 2, 1875. To-day it is estimated that no less than sixteen million instruments are in use in the world. Recently Dr. Alexander Graham Bell and his wife were present when two bronze tablets were unveiled at the telephone's birthplace.

This is the first Kodak photograph ever made, and the film was exposed by George Eastman himself with his original No. 1 Kodak. The men in the picture are Francis J. Yawman and Gustav Erbe, who made Mr. Eastman's first model in their little Rochester factory in 1887. Since that year Mr. Eastman has seen his company grow into the biggest photographic concern in the world, while Mr. Yawman and Mr. Erbe are to-day among the largest manufacturers of office equipment and filing systems in this country.

***The oldest** powder-mill in America is also the first mill built by the early du Ponts. It was erected in 1802 on the banks of the Brandywine, and for half a century it turned out powder for peace and war. From this humble beginning the du Ponts built their business, until to-day they have mills and factories in all parts of the United States, one of these being the largest dynamite factory in the world.*



Fifty-five years ago, John Wanamaker opened his first store in a single room in the McNeille Building in Philadelphia—called McNeille's "folly" because it was six stories high. At the close of the first day the cash drawer revealed a total intake of $24.67. Of this sum $24 was spent for advertising and 67 cents saved for making change next morning.

Here, in this ramshackle brick house, the first motor-car to bear the name of Ford butted its way into automobile fame. In those days Henry Ford was a mechanic. He employed one man—himself. To-day his plant employs over 20,000 men, and turns out a complete automobile every twenty-five seconds. Its profits are said to be somewhere in the neighborhood of $15,000,000 a year—more or less; but Mr. Ford doesn't care.